

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

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RICHARD L. STALDER, SECRETARY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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DOC Recognizes Outstanding Employees in 2006

(Baton Rouge) On Thursday, May 17, 2007, Department of Public Safety and Corrections Secretary Richard L. Stalder hosted three hundred employees and some of their family members during the Department's annual Employee Memorial Service and Awards Ceremony.

Many employees were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Department and to overall public safety in 2006 during the Employee Awards Ceremony.

Distinguished Service Awards, which recognize employees who act courageously to protect life or property during a work-related emergency situation, were presented to:

- **Sgt. Charlie McDonald, Master Sgt. Marcus Forest, Master Sgt. Mary McDonald and Sgt. Katie Dillon, Rayburn Correctional Center**, for their response to an inmate's brutal assault on a correctional officer;
- **Staffs of David Wade Correctional Center, Forcht Wade Correctional Center, Minden Probation and Parole District and Shreveport Probation and Parole District**, for their assistance to the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office in evacuating and housing inmates from the Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center when a nearby ammunitions plant experienced potentially deadly explosions.

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Others honored for their service to the Department include:

- **Master Sgt. Gary James, Louisiana State Penitentiary, Correctional Officer of the Year**
- **IT Program Analyst David Brasseaux, Headquarters, Support Employee of the Year**
- **Major Jeffrey O'Neal, J. Levy Dabadie Correctional Center, Supervisor of the Year**
- **Lula Richardson, Ville Platte District, Probation and Parole Officer of the Year**

The Secretary's Award of Excellence, which distinguishes those who provide a major benefit to the Department and its overall public safety mission, was awarded to:

- **Master Sgt. Carla George, Dixon Correctional Institute**, who was off-duty when she intervened in a potentially deadly domestic dispute on Interstate 110 in Baton Rouge.
- **Mental Health Staffs and Elayn Hunt Correctional Center and Louisiana State Penitentiary** for their work to come up with an agreement that provided the best, most cost effective mental health treatment for inmates, avoiding costly litigation.

The Memorial Service included a moving tribute to eight correctional and probation and parole officers killed in the line of duty during the Department's history. Twenty-two (22) employees or retired employees who passed away during 2006 were also remembered. Each employee's sacrifice and dedication were marked with a single red rose, followed by a remembrance reading.

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